

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Please cancel Claims 24-27. Applicant authorized cancellation of these claims in the response dated 2/17/2010.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Hagiwara, Orr, McKay, Von Kohorn and Marnell, alone or in combination, neither disclose nor render obvious the claimed invention for the following reasons:

Each play of Hagiwara's main machine and subordinate slot machine requires a player placing a wager, which is a type of player input. Since a player input is required for each play, including first and subsequent plays, Hagiwara does not disclose or render obvious the claimed automated play without requiring player input after the game is initiated. Further, Hagiwara does not disclose or render obvious, receiving a request from a remote player to view the representation of automated play, as claimed. This is because any request made at Hagiwara's subordinate machine is merely a request to play a single game and view the single game on a display and not to view automated play, as described above.

Orr and McKay merely teach stacked machines and casings, respectively. Thus, Orr and McKay fail to cure the deficiencies of Hagiwara.

Similarly, since Von Kohorn merely teaches a communication device, Von Kohorn fails to cure Hagiwara's shortcomings.

Moreover, Marnell only taught of using a video camera in a casino and not the claimed remote automated play. Hence, Marnell also fails overcome Hagiwara's deficiencies.

Based on the foregoing, Examiner believes that Applicant's invention is nonobvious and hence, allowable.

Accordingly, Claims 1-23 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to OMKAR A. DEODHAR whose telephone number is (571)272-1647. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Omkar Deodhar/

/Peter D. Vo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714